

ENVIRONMENT AND THE
INDIVIDUAL 207

lives escape them. Even our colour may be affected by our surroundings. An Englishman not only loses his ruddiness of complexion in the tropics : his skin may be darkened apart from sunburn by the development of a pigment which has become an hereditary peculiarity of the coloured races. Naturalists have collected many instances of the changing of colour by environment. An Arctic fox kept in a warm room has been known to resist its hereditary impulse to turn its fur white during the winter months. The chrysalides of some butterflies will reflect the colour with which the caterpillars were surrounded at the time of their metamorphosis. Alpine plants transferred to the lowlands by the botanist Nageli changed their habit of growth, but reverted to their original type when retransferred to the mountains. The closeness of the connection between an individual and its environment is shown by the exceedingly narrow limits within which many plants and animals are localized. Their haunts may not be distinguished by any unusual abundance of food. This peculiarity may be noticed amongst British butterflies : the Adonis blue will not stray beyond the limits of a few favoured fields : the Tulworth skipper only occurs at the place from which it takes its name.

With mankind at all events. environment affects mental disposition as well as physique. Some peoples take an optimistic view of life. There is a gulf between the active hopefulness of the Englishman and the passive endurance of the Hindu. We may ascribe this difference to peculiarities of race or climate, but may find a contributing factor in scenery, the effect of which is